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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
SENATE PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE
ON INVESTIGATIONS
(PURSUANT TO S. RES. 53, 90TH CONGRESS)

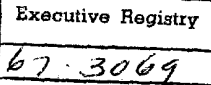
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June 22, 1967



Mr. Richard Helms
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. Helms:

As you know, the Subcommittee is conducting an inquiry into the procurement of the F-111 aircraft, formerly known as the TFX. An important requirement in our work is to obtain information about the threat to the American fleet which is likely to exist in the early 1970's.


It would be very helpful to the Subcommittee if your agency could provide us with the best current estimate relating to the various combinations of weapons which might conceivably be launched against the United States fleet in that period. Specifically, we would appreciate answers to the following questions:

1. How many missile-launching bombers will be available to the Soviet forces which might attack the United States fleet between 1971-1975?
2. What are the cruise and dash speeds of these bombers?
3. What is the operational range (radius) likely to be?
4. What are the parameters of the air-launched missiles (speed, range, armament, etc.)?
5. How and in what numbers are these aircraft most likely to be technically deployed against the United States fleet?

6. To what extent do Soviet submarine-launched missiles contribute to the threat? Do they represent a lesser or greater threat when compared to air strikes? What is the magnitude of these differences?
7. To what extent might additional bombers be made available from Soviet strategic forces for fleet attack? Under what circumstances would this action be probable?

Please be assured that the information you may supply in answer to these questions will be of high value to the Subcommittee. The cooperation of your agency will be deeply appreciated.

Sincerely yours,


John L. McClellan
Chairman

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